



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## Cleveland, OH

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Cleveland was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Cleveland (population 485,793) is a federally designated Empowerment Zone. The area targeted for assessment is the Lower Big Creek Valley and the adjacent neighborhoods of Brooklyn Centre and Old Brooklyn. The valley includes two miles of Big Creek, a major tributary of the Cuyahoga River. Seventy-five percent of the valley floor is occupied by the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Brookside Park facilities. The balance of the valley is heavily industrialized with properties used for auto salvage and junk yards, railroad lines, container and truck storage, and landfills. Potentially 100 to 150 acres of the valley floor and adjacent land qualify as



### Assessment Grant



#### \$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Cleveland for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct approximately ten Phase I and three Phase II environmental site assessments of properties in the Lower Big Creek Valley. Grant funds also will be used to support community outreach activities.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team  
312-886-7576  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: City of Cleveland, OH  
216-664-2812

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

brownfields. The area's residential neighborhoods have high unemployment, poverty, and vacancy rates. Twenty-five percent of Brooklyn Centre residents live in poverty, and nearly 11 percent are unemployed. Assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields sites will open up new recreational and employment opportunities for local residents. Revitalization plans call for linking the zoo and its visitors with the 110-mile Ohio Canal Towpath. The project is expected to capture revenues totaling \$2.7 million from visitor activities. Restoring the valley also is expected to lead to the development of new retail services and amenities.